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Question of Palestine

The situation in the Middle East

Consequences of the Iraqi occupation of and aggression against Kuwait

Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East

Operational activities for development

Security Council
Fifty-seventh year

Letter dated 12 September 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Oman to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the communiqué adopted during the eighty-fourth session of the Ministerial Council of the Gulf Cooperation Council, held at Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, on 3 June 2002, under the Chairmanship of H.E. Mr. Yousef Bin Alawi Bin Abdullah, Minister Responsible for Foreign Affairs of the Sultanate of Oman (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under the items entitled "Consequences of the Iraqi occupation of and aggression against Kuwait", "Question of Palestine", "Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East", "The situation in the Middle East", "Operational activities for development" and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Fuad Mubarak **Al-Hinai**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* A/57/150.

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Annex

Annex to the letter dated 12 September 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Oman to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Arabic]

Communiqué issued on 3 September 2002 by the Ministerial Council of the Gulf Cooperation Council at its eighty-fourth session, held in Jeddah

On 2 and 3 September 2002, the Ministerial Council of the Gulf Cooperation Council held its eighty-fourth session at Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, under the chairmanship of His Excellency Mr. Yousef Bin Al-Alawi Bin Abdullah, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of the Sultanate of Oman and Chairman-in-Office of the Ministerial Council. The meeting was attended by:

His Excellency Mr. Rashid Abdullah Al-Noaimi, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates;

His Excellency Sheikh Mohammed Bin Mubarak Al-Khalifa, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Bahrain;

His Royal Highness Prince Saud Al-Faisal, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia;

His Excellency Sheikh Hamad Bin Jassem Bin Jabr Al-Thani, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Qatar;

His Excellency Sheikh Muhammad Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Kuwait;

His Excellency Mr. Abdulrahman bin Hamad al-Atiyyah, GCC Secretary-General, also participated in the meeting.

The Ministerial Council condemned the self-serving attack by certain members of the Western media on the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which was designed to give an unbalanced and unfair picture of that State's international relations and of its involvement in the events. In that connection, the Council reaffirmed that it had full confidence in the positive role played by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and members of the Council, which contributes to the establishment of peace, security and well-being in the region and in the rest of the world, and their desire to strengthen and consolidate international efforts to counter terrorism within the framework of international legality laid down by the United Nations. It also welcomed with satisfaction the assurance given by His Excellency President George W. Bush to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia that the claims made regarding relations between the United States and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, at any rate regarding the position of the American Administration or the soundness of the special relations between the two countries, were unfounded.

The Council welcomed with satisfaction the results of the historic visit by His Highness Sheikh Hamad Bin Isa Al-Khalifa, King of Bahrain, to the Islamic Republic of Iran on 17 and 18 August 2002, for what was accomplished during that

important visit in terms of collaboration and concertation will do much to strengthen and draw ever closer the deepening relations between the Gulf States and the Islamic Republic of Iran and will strengthen security and stability in the region.

The Council welcomed the signing, on 22 June 2002, at Abu Dhabi, of the border agreement between the United Arab Emirates and the Sultanate of Oman, which it considers to be a mainstay of the Council and a reflection of the fraternal and friendly relations that unite their leaders, and it hopes that, under the enlightened guidance of the latter, the agreement will be conducive to the development and prosperity of the two fraternal peoples.

On the occasion of the celebrations marking the thirty-first national day of the State of Qatar, the Ministerial Council extends its best wishes to Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani, Amir of Qatar, and to the people of Qatar, praises their achievements in various fields and wishes them development and prosperity.

Likewise, on the occasion of the national day of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia later this month, the Council extends its best wishes to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Fahd Bin Abdul-Aziz Al Saud, King of Saudi Arabia, and to the Saudi people, praises their achievements in various fields and wishes them development and prosperity.

The Council was pleased with the agreement reached by the Kingdom of Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates concerning diplomatic and consular cooperation between the two fraternal countries, and stated that this welcome step would strengthen the fraternal ties of cooperation and enhance joint action between States of the Council.

It then went on to review recent events concerning cooperation between the Gulf States and political developments at the regional, Arab and international levels.

I. Cooperation

In compliance with the decision taken by the Supreme Council at its fourth consultative meeting, held in Jeddah in May 2002, and the decision of the Ministerial Council at its eighty-third session, held in Jeddah in June 2002, to expedite economic integration among GCC States and to give effect to the decisions taken by the Gulf Cooperation Council to establish a common market in the Gulf, to develop the educational systems and to promote cooperation among the GCC States in the political, economic, social and military spheres, the Council reviewed the progress made in those areas and examined the mechanisms and practical measures proposed by His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah Bin Abdul-Aziz, the Deputy Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, which had been considered at the fourth consultative meeting. The Council made the necessary recommendations on the matter.

With regard to economic cooperation, the Council considered the outcome of the eleventh meeting of ministers of planning concerning a long-term comprehensive development strategy, implementation of the decision of the Supreme Council on standardizing the accounting periods at the end of which general financial statements are prepared in the Gulf States. It also considered a detailed report on the evolution of international economic relations between GCC States, on the one hand, and other States and international economic groups, on the other.

The Council considered the development of military cooperation and coordination in various sectors and expressed its satisfaction at the measures taken and the progress made in that area.

II. Political issues

The Council reviewed the situation between Kuwait and Iraq in the light of the decisions taken by the Supreme Council at its previous sessions and the positive outcome of the Arab Summit Conference held in March 2002, in Beirut, which were contributing to the strengthening of security and stability in the region.

It reaffirmed that it persisted in recognizing that Iraq had an obligation to implement all relevant Security Council resolutions and, in particular, to release Kuwaiti and third party prisoners and detainees and to take all practical, tangible measures to ensure that those resolutions were fully implemented and that what happened in 1990 did not happen again.

Given the evolution of the situation at the regional and international levels and the continued strained relations between Iraq and the United Nations and the increasing talk about launching a military operation against Iraq, His Excellency Sheikh Hamad Bin Jassem Bin Jabr Al-Thani, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Qatar, informed the Council of the outcome of his visit to Iraq in August 2002. The Council reaffirmed its support for the decision taken by the Arab Summit Conference held in Beirut to contest any military operation against any Muslim or Arab country, including Iraq, because such an operation could lead to further actions and consequences and trigger a chain of events and would seriously jeopardize peace and security in the region. The Council asked Iraq to agree to the return of international inspectors in order to avert such an operation.

The Council recalled the decisions taken by the Supreme Council concerning the question of the occupation by the Islamic Republic of Iran of three islands, namely the Greater Tunb, the Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa, belonging to the United Arab Emirates. It reaffirmed the full sovereignty of the United Arab Emirates over the three islands, over their territorial seas, airspace and continental shelf and over their exclusive economic zone and considered them an integral part of the United Arab Emirates.

The Council hoped that the two countries would manage to find a peaceful solution that would put an end to the occupation of the three islands by the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The Council discussed the evolution of the Middle East peace process, which is in danger of collapsing and the grave deterioration of the situation in the occupied Palestinian territories as a result of the Israeli Government's pursuit of policies of State terrorism, which are reflected in such practices as setting up a blockade, starving and terrorizing the population, reoccupying Palestinian villages and towns, assassinating civilians and destroying houses, and adopting policies of deporting their innocent inhabitants without restraint and without compunction. The Council, while condemning these savage acts, reaffirms that such practices, which generate violence in return and make matters more difficult, are not helpful to efforts to restore peace and that ending the occupation by Israel of the Palestinian and Arab territories is the only way to achieve a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the

Middle East, the aim being to spare the region and the rest of the world a war which might have catastrophic humanitarian consequences throughout the region.

Accordingly, the Council reaffirms that peace is a strategic choice and that the initiative of His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah Bin Abdul-Aziz, Deputy Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, which was approved by the Arab Summit Conference held in Beirut and which became the consensual Arab initiative, is a comprehensive basis for a peaceful solution. For this reason it must be the mainstay of all negotiation and of any serious attempt to achieve a just, comprehensive and lasting solution in the region within the framework of international legality.

The Council heard a detailed account, by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Denmark, of the Danish plan to establish a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East by creating a Palestinian State, which plan has the support of the European Union.

The Council again urged the international community to take action to transform the Middle East region, including the Gulf, into a zone free of weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons. The Council emphasized that Israel must accede to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and submit all its nuclear facilities to the International Atomic Energy Agency inspection regime.